(c) whether it is a fact that some of the states are opposing this policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The LNG policy is under the consideration of Government. It requires detailed examination and consultation/approval of different user Ministries/ Departments.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Exploration of crude oil in Nagaland

972. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil India Ltd. (OIL) has been allowed to drill in Arunachal Pradesh for the discovery of new oilfields;

(b) if so, whether OIL has started drilling; and

(c) what is the latest position of extraction of crude oil in Nagaland?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Oil India Ltd. (OIL) can carry out Exploration and Production (E&P) activities, incluiding drilling of wells, in terms of Petroleum Exploration Lincence (PEL) and Mining Lease (ML) granted to it in the State of Arunachal Pradesh. It has already drilled 56 Exploratory and development wells and is carrying out Two-dimensional (2-D) seismic survey in the Manabum area of Arunachal Pradesh today.

(c) The Government have made efforts in close coordination with the State Government of Nagaland to resume exploration and development activities by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) in Nagaland. A number of measures have been taken in this direction which, *interalia*, include series of meetings with the State Governemnt, grant of Mining Lease for one block in Changpang by the State Government, filing of applications by ONGC for three more Petroleum

Exploration Lincenses areas, award on one exploration block to ONGC under NELP-III in the State and putting on offer for bidding under NELP-IV of one more block AA-ONN-2002/4.

Kandla-Loni LPG Gas Pipeline

973. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the Kandla-Lone LPG gas pipeline project which is passing through Rajasthan among other States;

(b) the extent to which it will help in removing the waiting list for the registration of LPG gas connections and wipe out the backlog in the supply of LPG gas cylinders to the customers of Rajasthan;

(c) whether it will also give an opportunity for the supply of mini cylinders to the backward areas of Rajasthan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The Jamnagar Loni LPG pipeline has been commissioned and is under operation. Kandla -Samakhiali line has been constructed connecting it to the Jamnagar-Loni pipeline. Pipeline transmission of LPG has operational and cost advantages as compared to other mdoes of transport. To this extent, the pipeline would facilitate the quick spread LPG connections in Rajasthan.

(c) and (d) The channel for marketing of 5 Kg cylinders at present is through the existing network of LPG distributorship. The LPG gas pipeline project from Kandla to Loni has no direct bearing in the supply of mini cylinders in the State of Rajasthan. There is no backlog in supply of LPG cylinders in State of Rajasthan and no waiting list for LPG connections. As on 1.4.2003 there was approximately 4500 customers of 5 Kg cylinders in Rajasthan.

Agreement for Import of crude oil

†974. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.